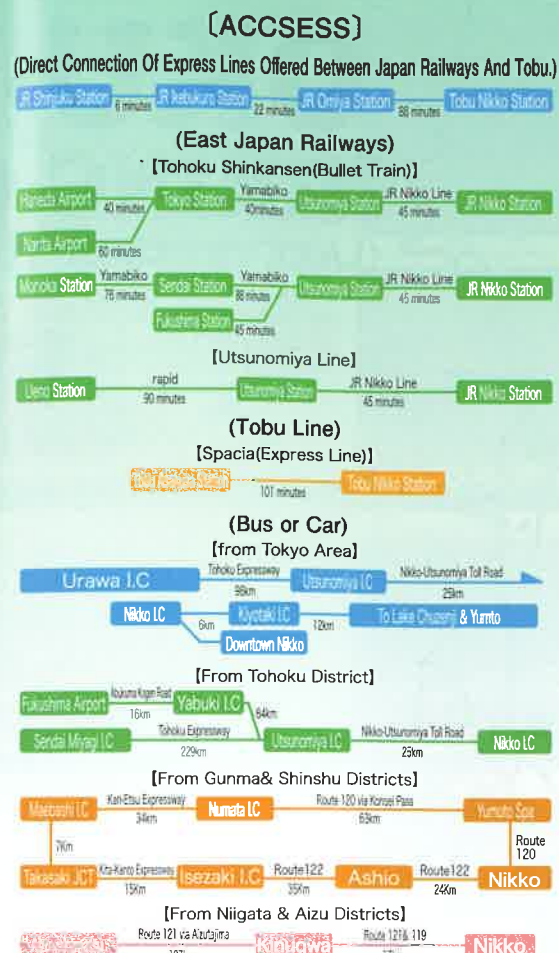


- LAKE SAINOKO・SENJU-GA-HAMA・RYUZU FALLS HIKING COURSE
- ODASHIRO-GA-HARA HIKING COURSE
- LAKE CHUZENJI HIKING COURSE
- LAKE YUNOKO HIKING COURSE
- SENJO-GA-HARA HIKING COURSE
- LAKE KIRIKOMI・LAKE KARIKOMI HIKING COURSE

OKU-NIKKO HIKING GUIDE MAP

(LAKE CHUZENJI・YUMOTO HOT SPRINGS AREA)



〔INFORMATION SERVICE〕
(Nikko Tourist Information Center)
TEL.0288-54-2496
FAX.0288-54-2495
591 Goko-machi, Nikko city Tochigi Pref. 321-1404
Inside Nikko Kyodo Center
(Nikko Tourist Information Center Official Website)
Weather, Nature, Traffic, History, Culture, Facilities and lots of more information
<http://www.nikko-jp.org>
(Tourist Information Center in Tobu Nikko Station)
TEL.0288-53-4511
(Tourism Division of Nikko City)
TEL.0288-53-3795
FAX.0288-53-3096

① SENJO-GA-HARA HIKING COURSE

SENJO-GA-HARA PLATEAU



This course is the most popular hiking trail. Through the woods and marshland, you can enjoy the real and whole pleasure of nature such as chirpings of wild birds, alpine floras from June to August, and colored glasses in autumn. Senjo-ga-hara plateau is about 400ha in area and one of the largest marshland in Honshu of Japan with more than 100 species of swamp plants. Its average elevation is about 1,400m. There is a legend of the name of 'Senjo-ga-hara' ('battle field'); in the ancient days, there was a battle between the God of Mt.Nantai and the God of Mt.Akagi in Gunma pref. at this plateau.



① YUTAKI FALLS

Yutaki Falls is one of three famous falls in Oku-Nikko. The other two are Kegon Falls and Ryuzu Falls. It is located at the southern end of Lake Yunoko. The falls is 70 meters high and the width is 25 meters in max. You can see this dynamic form from the observatory at the basin of Yutaki Falls.



② KOTAKI FALLS

Kotaki Falls is only 5meters high and not as famous as Yutaki Falls or Ryuzu Falls, but it is a lovely waterfall harmonizing with the scenery of mysterious green woods or colored leaves. The water looks impressively white in color.



③ ODASHIRO-BASHI BRIDGE

Odashiro-bashi Bridge is a wooden bridge over Yukawa River, parting of the way to entrance of Kotoku. You can see many fallen trees around here. Some old fallen trees were covered with moss and the scenery is just like a jungle.



④ AOKI-BASHI BRIDGE

Aoki-bashi Bridge was built over Yukawa River. There is a big crabapple tree. The river view from this bridge is fantastic and also the beauty of this bridge itself is remarkable by blending with the scenery around.



⑤ YUKAWA RIVER

Yukawa River is a short river of about 12.4 km that flows from Yutaki Falls and changes its name into Jigoku-gawa River after passing through Ryuzu Falls, and finally, is poured into Shobu-ga-hama Beach in Lake Chuzenji. Yukawa River flows gently through Senjo-ga-hara plateau. In Japan, apparently, fly fishing was first performed here in Yukawa River.



⑥ AKA-NUMA MARSH

Aka(red)-Numa(marsh) is a moor located at the entrance of Senjo-ga-hara plateau. According to the legend, the name of 'Aka-Numa' came from the story of God's battle. Both troops were injured by the battle and shed blood into the marsh. So that the color of marsh turned to red and people started to call this marsh 'Aka-Numa'.



⑦ SHAKUNAGE-BASHI BRIDGE

Shakunage-bashi Bridge lies on the way to Ryuzu Falls from Senjo-ga-hara plateau. It takes about 10 minutes from Ryuzu Falls. You can find Shakunage (rhododendron) around here.



⑧ ODASHIRO-GA-HARA HIKING COURSE

ODASHIRO-GA-HARA PLATEAU



Odashiro-ga-hara Plateau is located at the west of Yukawa River and it is about 2km in circumferences. The area of this land is 1/4 of Senjo-ga-hara plateau. There are some colonies such as Ranunculus japonicas (June-July), Meadowsweet (Hozaki-Shimotsuke/July-August), Japanese Thistle (No'azami/July-August), and Nikko Azami. And in autumn, you can enjoy the lovely yellow leaves of Japanese Oak or the colored grass (kusa-momiji) beautifully patterned by the variety of vegetation. There is also a very popular tree, a white birch, called 'A Lady of Odashiro-ga-hara'.

⑧ ODASHIRO-GA-HARA OBSERVATORY

Odashiro-ga-hara observatory is a terrific lookout point to command a panoramic view of Odashiro-ga-hara marshland. Japanese oak trees, beech trees in the east side and larch trees in the west, and Japanese oak grove in the north. At the back of this observatory, there is a revolving gate, leads you to a bus stop and restrooms nearby.



⑨ IZUMI-YADO IKE POND

It is a spring water pond. The atmosphere here is so mystic harmonized with the fresh clear water color and the silence of the fallen timbers and the dead trees. You have a chance to see mallards here. If you want to go to see Aoki-bashi Bridge, please advance on the trail to Aka-numa district.



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③ LAKE YUNOKO ROUND COURSE

10 LAKE YUNOKO



Lake Yunoko(sea level; 1,478 meters) was formed when Mt.Mitsudake erupted and stopped the flow of Yukawa river. It is a small lake with a circumference of about 3 km and you can enjoy approx. an hour round trip on a flat trail. There is a primeval forest with broadleaf trees and conifers. Near the southern shore, you will find beautiful colonies of the east rhododendron in May and June. Also, wild birds of many species can be seen here.

11 Yutaki-ue(the crest of Yutaki Falls)

Yutaki Falls is 110meters in height and has its source in Lake Yunoko. Yutaki-ue is located at the southern shore of Lake Yunoko and a spectacular view point to watch the powerful torrent. In May and June, you can also enjoy the beautiful Rhododendron Wadanum(Rose Bay) here. It takes about 10minutes on foot to the observatory of Yutaki Falls(at the basin of its falls).



12 USAGI-JIMA

Usagi means rabbit in Japanese. Usagi-jima is a peninsula which form is pretty similar to the ear of a rabbit. There is a marshland at the root of this peninsula, called 'Usagi-jima moor' and such as Rhododendron Japonicum, Cotton Sedge or Vaccinium oxycoccus are growing in this area. The beauty of red and yellow leaves in autumn all over this peninsula takes your breath away.



④ LAKE SAINOKO · SENJU-GA-HAMA · RYUZU FALLS HIKING COURSE

13 LAKE SAINOKO



It takes about 15 minutes walk from the nearest bus stop,'Sainoko-iriguchi' to Lke Sainoko. You will find a red suspension bridge (Tsru-bashi) over the Yanagisawa river on the way to the lake. After crossing the bridge, there is a forest of honey fungus and elms. Lake Sainoko is a mystic small lake of about 1.5km in surroundings located at the end of Senji-ga-hama beach,and was a part of Lake Chuzenji once. Many trees on the beach are called 'Yachidamo' (Fraxinus mandshurica). Yachidamo is a large deciduous tree with thick grayish white fissured bark and is resistant to water. Lake Sainoko is a good place to feel the untouched nature. You will be impressed by the clear gentle breeze of the wind, birds singing or dears crying.

14 SENJU-GA-HAMA BEACH

Senju-ga-hama is a beach of about 2 km in length and has honey fungus and elms which are over 200 years old. You can see the magnificent panoramic view of Mt.Nantai from this beach. June is the most crowded season in the year because of the beautiful flower, 'Kurinsō'(Japanese primroses)- a rare plant found in high mountains. It is possible to use hybrid bus or seasonal pleasure boat for your journey.



15 AKA-IWA

After passing by the trail of intense ups-and downs, you will find a huge rock, Aka(red)-Iwa(rock).It is lying by the lakeside and it seems like thrusting itself at the lake. The rock is an area of setting up of about 5to6 person and you can see the amazing scenery from here. Also you will find Rhododendron quinquefolium(Shiro-Yashio) and Rhododendron pentaphyllum var. nikoense(Aka-Yashio) around here.



16 Ryuzu Falls

One of the three most famous Falls in Oku-Nikko area. The water is falling down over 210 meters on the lava by the eruption of Mt.Nantai. It is said that the name of 'Ryuzu Falls' came from the shape. The basin of Falls are divided into two rocks and seems like two dragon's (竜) heads(頭). You can enjoy the beauty of azaleas in spring and marvelous colors of red and yellow leaves in autumn.



⑤ LAKE KIRIKOMI · LAKE KARIKOMI HIKING COURSE

17 YUMOTO ONSEN (Yumoto Hot Springs)

Yumoto Onsen is a town located on the north shore of Lake Yunoko. The history of Yumoto Onsen dates back over 1200 years in time. It is said that the priest Shodo, the founder of Nikko, discovered this hot spring in 788.Yumoto Onsen is a sulfur spring and good for skin diseases. The source of the hot spring is located in Yu-no-Daira marsh.



18 ONSEN-JI TEMPLE

Onsen-ji Temple belongs to Rinnoji Temple, and enshrines Medicine Buddha. Originally, this Buddha was enshrined in Yakushi-Do sacred hall (lit.Medicine Buddha's Hall) next to Onsen Shrine. But after the damage from the typhoon in1972, the Buddha was moved to the current sacred hall of Onsen-ji Temple. This temple is a unique temple that offers visitors chances to enjoy onsen and stay (for staying; need reservation).



19 LAKE KIRIKOMI · LAKE KARIKOMI

Lake Kirikomi and Lake Karikomi are twin lava lakes and located on the north side of Mt. Mitsudake (1945m). No streams from both Lakes. Kirikomi is 400m long, and Lake Karikomi is 600m long. The depth of both lakes is 15m. Though the lakes have each name, the both lakes are connected in fact.



20 KARE-NUMA

Kare-numa is a hollow or a dried up swamp. It looks like a conical prairie. You will get here after 15min.walk from San'no Pass. Many hikers take a rest here. In early summer, many kinds of alpine floras bloom, and in autumn, the green leaves turn to red or yellow from the bottom of a mountain here.



21 SAN'NO PASS

San'no Pass is located between Mt. San'no-Boushi and Mt.Misu-Dake. You can enjoy the magnificent panorama of Mt.Nantai from the observatory. The trail slopes downward from here to Kotoku Hot Springs and gradually, the trees change from conifer to broadleaf tree.



22 KOTOKU PASTURE

The Kotoku Pasture is about 30,000 square meters, and located 1.5km east from Kotoku-iriguchi bus stop faces Route 120.Cows and horses are put out to pasture. You can get fresh milk and rich & delicious ice cream here. This area has a hot spring ('Kotoku Onsen') and a hotel. And some facilities are provided such as parking lot and rest room.



23 KOTOKU-NUMA MARSH/ KOTOKU-IRIGUCHI ENTRANCE

Kotoku-numa Marsh is about 300 meters in circumferences and about 1 meter in depth. The spring water from the mountain is the source of this marsh. The water is pure and chilly. You will find many Yachi-bozu (lit. moor-bonze) in the center of the marsh. Yachi-bozu is a bunch of overgrown sedge roots formed in a strange shape, like a hump.



⑥ LAKE CHUZENJI HIKING COURSE

● HANGETSU PASS HIKING COURSE
● CHA·NO·KI-DAIRA PLATEAU~AKECHI-DAIRA PLATEAU HIKING COURSE

24 AKECHI-DAIRA OBSERVATORY

To get to Akechi-daira Plateau, you could use the aerial lift (about 5 minutes riding) . It is said that this observatory is the number one scenic point in Nikko. The observatory commands magnificent view.In the west side, you can see the majestic view of Lake Chuzenji, Kegon Falls, and Mt.Nantai. And in the eastside, you will find the 'BYO'BU IWA' cliff which falls away sharply and also the mountain range continuing faraway. This scenery is unparalleled in its beauty.



25 CHA·NO·KI-DAIRA PLATEAU

Cha-no-ki-daira plateau is another observatory with a panoramic view on the way to Hangetsu Pass. It is about 1600 meters above sea level. This observatory is popular for its view of the entire Lake Chuzenji.



26 MT.HANGETSU OBSERVATORY

The scenery of Mt.Hangetsu observatory is equal to Akechi-daira observatory of its imposing beauty. From here, you can see Mt.Nantai, Lake Chuzenji, Senjo-ga-hara Plateau, and Mt.Nikko-Shirane in the distance. The natural colors of the respective scenery is beyond word.



27 MUJINA-KUBO

Mujina-kubo is located at the lake front and a good place to enjoy the breathtaking view of Lake Chuzenji and Mt.Nantai You can take a rest here on the sandy beach or sitting on the suitable rocks. It takes about 20 minutes on foot from this point to Italian Embassy Villa Memorial Park.



28 ITALIAN EMBASSY VILLA MEMORIAL PARK

This villa was used by Italian ambassadors for about 69 years from 1928. A main residence is now an museum which displays furnitures or furnishing goods in old days (International Summer Resort History Museum). You might be momentarily under the illusion that you are slip back in time.Chuzenji area was very prosperous as a summer resort from the middle of the Meiji Period to the early Showa Period.The quiet and marvelous scenery from the villa is still popular.



29 WOODEN STATUE OF TACHIKI-KANNON

'Tachiki-Kannon' is a popular name for Senju-Kannon(Thousand Armed Goddess of Mercy) enshrined in Chuzenji Temple. Senju-Kannon is the Buddha of sacred Mt.Nantai. Chuzenji temple was built by the priest Shodo in 784 and is associated with Rinnoji Temple in Nikko. There is a legend that this statue of Tachiki-Kannon was carved on a standing Katsura tree by the priest Shodo himself when he saw Senju-Kannon appearing from Lake Sainoko.



INFORMATION FOR OKU-NIKKO HIKERS

Useful information for hike or the latest news of natures are here.

You can also enjoy some panels of wild animals, flowers or relief maps.



NIKKO YUMOTO VISITOR CENTER

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●TEL.0288-62-2321



NIKKO NATURE MUSEUM

栃木県立日光自然博物館
●TEL.0288-55-0880





TIPS FOR HIKERS

- ① This Guide Map is helpful for basic trail information. A compass and some detail maps are recommended when you climb mountains.
- ② Some facilities including public toilets and parking lots are due to close or shortened business hours in winter season (basically Nov.-March.).
- ③ Operation of Low-Pollution Hybrid Bus and Boat is subject to change by the season or the day of the week.
- ④ Depending how far or much you want to hike, make sure to sketch your schedule with enough time. It is important to finish your hike before it gets dark.
- ⑤ The weather is changeable in this area. Dress for the day. Wear or bring light weight rain gear as needed. Higher elevations can be cooler and windier than you might expect. Sun block, hat, and your choice of pain reliever are useful items.
- ⑥ Be sure to bring enough water.
- ⑦ Please do not feed the wild monkeys.
- ⑧ Watch out for bears. To avoid dangers, please consider the followings: Make sounds (with such as a bear-bell) while walking, especially, in the early morning or in the evening./If it happens anyway, stay cool and walk away silently./ Never throw away kitchen garbage, fruit or vegetable waste.
- ⑨ Protect yourself against insects, particularly bees. If you find a colony of bees, the most important thing is not to panic and leave them alone and keep away from bees quickly and quietly. Prepare medical supplies. Better to avoid using fragrant or scented personal products and wear light colored long sleeve shirts, pants, hats.
- ⑩ Visitors to any state park or nature preserve are reminded that collecting natural materials is prohibited. Please do not litter.



SENJO-GA-HARA PLATEAU & YUTAKI FALLS

① SENJO-GA-HARA HIKING COURSE

DISTANCE: 6.3km APPROX. TIME REQUIRED 2:35

YUTAKI-IRIGUCHI 50min. IZUMIYADO-KE POND 25min. AOKI-BASHI BRIDGE 35min. AKANUMA DIVERGENCE 15min. SHAKUNAGE-BASHI BRIDGE 30min. RYUZU-NO-TAKI

This is one of the most popular hiking courses in Oku-Nikko area. The entire trail is flat. You can enjoy various kinds of moor plants or the songs of wild birds through the woods. It takes about 5 minutes walk from YUTAKI-IRIGUCHI bus stop to the observatory located at the basin of Yutaki Falls. You can start your trail here along Yukawa River. Yellow and red leaves usually start from early October.



Senjo-ga-hara Plateau Yukawa River. Crabapple



Akanuma Nature Information Center



ODASHIRO-GA-HARA PLATEAU

② ODASHIRO-GA-HARA HIKING COURSE

DISTANCE: 7.2km APPROX. TIME REQUIRED 2:20

AKANUMA 20min. SHAKUNAGE-BASHI BRIDGE 45min. ODASHIRO-GA-HARA OBSERVATORY 40min. IZUMIYADO-KE POND 35min. KOTOKU-IRIGUCHI

It is also possible to arrange your own course with the point of Yutaki Falls or Ryuzu Falls. You can use the Low-Pollution Hybrid Bus operates from Akanuma-shako bus stop. Odashiro-ga-hara Plateau is more like prairie rather than moor. But sometimes, after the heavy rain, a passing phenomenon, such as 'Lake Odashiro' will appear in the prairie and gives you a deep impression of natures.



Odashiro-ga-hara Plateau Lake Odashiro



Low Pollution Hybrid Bus



Lake Yunoko: The season of green leaves

③ LAKE YUNOKO HIKING COURSE

DISTANCE: 2.9km APPROX. TIME REQUIRED 1:10

KOHAN-MAE 40min. YUTAKI-UE 20min. USAGI-JIMA MARSH 10min. YUMOTO ONSEN

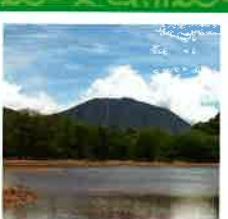
Short flat course. It might be rather strolling than hiking. There are many species of birds such as Bush Warbler, Great Tit, Woodpecker, Wagtail and Mallard. Also Ducks in winter. In May and June, you will find the beauty of east rhododendron along the southern shore. Lake Yunoko is also known as Mecca of fishing. Lake boat is available.



Lake Yunoko & Yutaki Falls



Rhododendron Lake Yunoko: Colored Leaves



Lake Sainoko

④ LAKE SAINOKO-SENJU-GA-HAMA HIKING COURSE

DISTANCE: 7.0km APPROX. TIME REQUIRED 2:50

SAINOKO-IRIGUCHI 30min. LAKE SAINOKO 50min. SENJU-GA-HAMA BEACH 1:00 AKA-IWA 30min. RYUZU-NO-TAKI

It takes about 15 minutes walk from the nearest bus stop, 'Sainoko-iriguchi' to Lake Sainoko. At Senju-ga-hama Beach, you can enjoy the spectacular view of Mt. Nantai, and in June, Japanese primroses (Kurino) are beautifully blooming here. This trail is mostly flat. Please feel the nature all around you.



Senji-ga-hama Beach Rhododendron wadanumi (Togoku Mitsuba-Tsutsuji) at Ryuzu Falls



Kurino (Japanese Primrose)



Lake Kirikomi & Lake Karikomi

⑤ LAKE KIRIKOMI- LAKE KARIKOMI HIKING COURSE

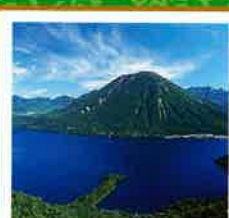
DISTANCE: 9.6km APPROX. TIME REQUIRED 4:20

YUMOTO-ONSEN 40min. PASS 30min. LAKE KIRIKOMI 1:10 KARE-NUMA MARSH 35min. SAN'NO PASS 1:00 KOTOKU-NUMA MARSH 25min. KOTOKU-IRIGUCHI

This course has steep slopes. But hike up San'no Pass from Kotoku Hot Springs will be more strenuous trip. You can see the spectacular view of Lake Yunoko from Kotoku Pass. In Kotoku Hot Springs, you will find some rest areas such as Kotoku Pasture. Please enjoy the pure aroma of conifers or the chirping of the wild birds during the hike. In early summer, you might also hear the singing of Robin (Komadori). Please notice that buses between 'Kotoku-iriguchi' and 'Kotoku Onsen' bus stop are few.



Source of Yumoto Hot Springs Kotoku-numa Marsh



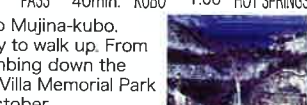
Lake Chuzenji & Mt. Nantai from Mt. Hangestu Observatory

⑥ LAKE CHUZENJI HIKING COURSE

DISTANCE: 11km APPROX. TIME REQUIRED 4:55

AKECHI-DAIRA PLATEAU 5min. AKECHI-DAIRA OBSERVATORY 1:10 CHANOKI-DAIRA PLATEAU 1:00 FIRST PARKING LOT 40min. MTHANEGETSU OBSERVATORY 20min. HANEGETSU PASS 40min. MUJINA-KUBO 1:00 CHUZENJI HOT SPRINGS

Long and Hard trail with many diversences with mostly steep up hills and down hills to Mujina-kubo. Please plan enough time to do this trail. On the way to Hanegetsu Pass, there is a roadway to walk up. From the Mt. Hanegetsu Observatory, you can enjoy the magnificent panoramic view. After climbing down the mountain to Mujina-kubo, the trail will follow along the lakeside towards Italian Embassy Villa Memorial Park and Chuzenji Temple. Colored leaves, such as Azaleas and Beech trees, are seen in October.



View from the Akechidaira (Plateau) Observatory

Mountain Course



Panoramic View from Mt. Shirane

⑦ MT. NANTAI

CLIMB UP 3:30 CLIMB DOWN 2:30

FUTARASAN SHRINE CHUGU-SHI 1:20 TORII-GATE 4TH STAGE 1:20 TAKINO'O SHRINE 8TH STAGE 50min. SUMMIT OF MT. NANTAI

This sacred mountain basically open to the public for a certain period of time (May 5th to October 25th). The path is very well-trodden and so steep. It's less than 5km from the shrine to the summit, but you climb over 1200 vertical meters. The level of difficulty is high.



Lake Chuzenji from mountain trail Statue at the summit

⑧ MT. SHIRANE

APPROX. TIME REQUIRED: 8:25

YUMOTO HOT SPRINGS 3:20 MT. MAE-SHIRANE 30min. GOSHIKI-NUMA POND SHELTER 1:00 MT. SHIRANE 40min. MIDAGA-IKE POND 50min. GOSHIKI 25min. KOKYO-DAIRA PLATEAU 1:40 YUMOTO HOT SPRINGS

Rising 2,577.6 meters above sea level on the border between Tochigi and Gunma prefectures, Mt. Shirane is the tallest peak in all areas of Japan from the Kanto region to the northernmost point of the country and is also known as Mt. Nikko-Shirane. The summit commands a panoramic view of several famous mountains, such as the Nikko Mountains. Starting from Yumoto Ski area, you will reach the summit of Mt. Mae-Shirane after 3 hours climbing. You can see a beautiful Goshiki-numa Pond below. Proceeding toward Mt. Goshiki and climb down to the Yumoto Hot Springs area.



Goshiki-numa Marsh Mt. Shirane from Mt. Mae-Shirane Shirane Aoi